IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please insert the following header between the title "**A BACON COOKER**" and "This is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Serial No. 10/405,361, filed April 3, 2003.":

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Please amend paragraphs 7, 20, 25-27 and 34 as follows:

~~[0007] Yet a further object of the present invention is to provide a novel and improved apparatus for cooking bacon or the like in a microwave oven while preventing the destructive explosions of superheated steam that are common with conventional apparatus and methods for cooking bacon.~~

[0020] FIGS. 4A-4E is a side of the lid ~~**200**~~ **300**, a plan view of the lid **300**, and a side view of the lid handle **322**, a side view of the alignment tabs **323**, and a partial cross-section of the clasp **342** engaging the peripheral rim **314**, respectively; and

[0025] It is important for the container **100** to be firmly attached to the lid **300** during the microwave cooking process. If, for example, the cover unit should become detached, the hot contents of the bacon cooker will forcefully splatter out of open end **130**. To removably secure a container in place, lid **300** is provided with two or more cam locks ~~**320**~~ which engage the underside of container rim **140** when the cam locks lock in place, as shown in **FIGS. 4A - 4C**. In a preferred embodiment, a first cam lock ~~**321**~~ **315** is mounted in handle **322**. Handle **322** preferably consists of a neck **324** and a grasping arm **326**. Neck **324** consists of a neck top wall **328** that is coextensive with lid top wall **310** and which joins downwardly extending neck sidewalls **330** and **332**. Grasping arm ~~**336**~~ **326** joins the distal end of neck top wall **328** relative to lid top wall **310** and extends downwardly from neck **324**. Thus, when lid **300** is attached to container **100**, container sidewall **120** and grasping arm **326** are substantially parallel to one another. Neck **324** preferably extends a distance laterally from lid top wall **310** such that one's hands do not touch any portion of container **100** when handling grasping arm **326** of handle **322**. The downward configuration of grasping arm **326** allows for easy handling and storage of the bacon cooker **10**.

[0026] A second cam lock ~~329~~ 320 is mounted in a lock mount 330 which extends laterally from lid outer sidewall 312. This lock mount is positioned opposite to the handle 322 and includes a top wall 311 which is coextensive with lid top wall 310 and which joins downwardly extending, lock mount sidewalls 334 and 336.

[0027] The construction of cam locks ~~321 and 329~~ 315 and 320 are identical. Each cam ~~locks~~ lock includes a pivot pin 338 mounted for pivotal movement. The pivot pin for first cam lock ~~121~~ 315 extends between the handle sidewalls 330 and 332 and rotatably rests therein. The pivot pin 338 for the second cam lock ~~329~~ 320 extends between lock mount sidewalls 334 and 336 and is also rotatably rests therein. For convenience, the functionality of only one cam lock is discussed in detail below. It should be recognized, however, that the discussion as it relates to one cam lock applies equally to other cam locks. ~~Cam~~ The cam locks ~~321~~ preferably consist of two laterally projecting arms 301 which, when in the locked position, engage the underside of container rim 140. When container 100 is exposed to microwaves, the elasticity of the upper portion of side wall 120 of container 100 may increase. Thus, to ensure that arms 301 remain securely engaged to the underside of container rim 140, arms 301 are preferably of such length to firmly force the upper portion of side wall 120 against inner side wall 316 of lid 300. The spacing of lid outer sidewall 312, lid inner sidewall 316, and container sidewall 120 permits the elliptical distortion of container sidewall 120 when arms 301 are moved into the locking position, and provides instant, non-friction release of lid 300 from container 100 when the cam locks are unlocked.

[0028] An inwardly inclined actuator lever arm 340 is connected to one end of the pivot pin 338 to rotate the pivot pin and to lock the cam lock. The lever arm 340 is angled to frictionally engage the lid outer sidewall 314 when the cam section 346 has been pivoted thereby into engagement with the underside of container rim 140. In a preferred embodiment, a clasp 342 is positioned at the end of lever arm 340 and is dimensioned to snap over peripheral rim 344 on the outer sidewall 314 of lid 300 in order to secure lid 300 onto container 100. Clasp 342 can thus be engaged to secure lid 300 to the container 100 by simply pushing actuator lever arm 340 to position A, as shown in FIG. 4B until clasp 342 snaps onto peripheral rim 344. To unlock the lid from the container, lever arm 340 is forced downwardly against the incline edge of outer sidewall to cause the pivot pin 338 to pivot cam

section **346** downwardly to a vertical position where lever arm **340** will be positioned at **B** in **FIG. 4B**. Handle neck sidewalls **330** and **332** and lock mount sidewalls **334** and **336** each include a slot **339** through which pivot pin **338** can be removed when lever arm **340** is in position **C**, shown in **FIG. 4B**. Slot **339** contains a circular-shaped portion dimensioned to receive pivot pin **338** and a rectangular portion dimensioned to allow the passage of the cam locks therethrough, when pivot pin **338** and cam lock ~~320~~ 315 are positioned 180° degrees relative to position **A**. The end of pivot pin **338**, located distally from clasp **342** is slightly larger in diameter than slot **339**, such that a slight degree of force is required to insert and remove pivot pin **338**. This prevents the unintentional detachment from lid **300**. Pivot pin **338** also includes a stop ring **317** of a diameter larger than slot **339** and which is positioned circumferentially around pivot pin **338**. Stop pin **317** abuts against neck **324** to maintain pivot pin **338** in proper position.

[0034] In the microwave bacon cooking process, omni directional microwaves pass through container **100**, and its components and contents. In the absence of a reflective layer, the microwaves continue unimpeded and exit container **100**. However, where as in accordance with the present embodiment, a reflective layer is applied to the outside of container **100**, microwaves impinge upon the shiny surface of the foil and are omni directionally reflected back through the interior of container **100**. This process occurs ~~repeatedly~~ continuously during the cooking process.